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SUBJECT Malenkov's Reconciliation with Zhdanovites

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 26 Feb 54, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party turned over the powerful Commission of the Cadres of the Party to S. D. Ignatiev, with the objective of strengthening the consolidation of the Party.
2. This action is undoubtedly the prelude to a new purge, in which many of Molotov's followers will be involved, and possibly some Red Army figures, including Marshal Zhukov.
3. Ignatiev, formerly secretary of the party in Uzbekistan, and down to October 1953 Secretary of the Moscow Committee, is one of the most controversial figures in the Soviet hierarchy, and one of the last survivors of the Zhdanov group. Only recently has he come to an understanding with the group following Malenkov and Khrushchev. He was elected a supplementary member of the Central Committee as early as March 1939 and a full member of the Presidium in October 1952. After the death of Stalin he was entrusted with the administration of the secretariat of the Central Committee on 7 Mar 53, but only one week later he was pushed down to fifth member of the Secretariat. These rapid changes were the result of deep internal intrigues, in which Ignatiev has been engaged since the beginning of his career.
4. Ignatiev has never abandoned Zhdanov's theory of the supremacy of Soviet political efficiency, and has continued to press for immediate Communist revolutionary activity abroad. Several times he has been in danger of arrest as a sectarian. During World War II Ignatiev was a rather obscure official of the Orgburo, but as such he was involved in the investigation of the Polish Jewish Workers Party, which led to the execution of its leaders, Alter and Ehrlich. This action gained him

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promotion and associated him with the anti-Semite wing of the Party. The state security forces and secret services, where Jewish influence was strong, started a purge of Anti-Semites, and Ignatiev quickly lost all the ground he had gained in the Alter-Ehrlich affair. Things became still more difficult for Ignatiev at the end of the war when Zhdanov entered a conflict with his rival, Malenkov. As a Zhdanovite, Ignatiev was given less and less important posts and his career appeared at an end. Accusing the Jews as responsible for his misfortunes, Ignatiev secretly engaged in the anti-Jewish intrigues which went on in the Kremlin until 1948. This was the year of Zhdanov's death; Ignatiev at once perceived that A. N. Voznesensky, the new leader of Zhdanov's group, would be unable to stand against Malenkov, and made his peace with the new dominant group.

5. In spite of this change of front, Ignatiev remained a minor figure in the Party apparatus and was used only for purges in the secretariat. But in 1950 Malenkov, already involved in the struggle with Molotov and Beria for the succession to Stalin, decided to use Ignatiev for a reconciliation with the Zhdanovites. Ignatiev organized the discovery of the Jewish doctors' plot, announced in January 1953. This was a warning to the Red Army leaders that they were in danger of murder, and an accusation of neglect against the services headed by Beria.
6. Beria retorted by obtaining the rehabilitation of the Jewish doctors shortly after Stalin's death, and Ignatiev was sent to the Bashkir Autonomous Republic to reorganize the Party apparatus there. This did not put a halt to the negotiations between Malenkov and Ignatiev, as the representative of the Zhdanovites, and these negotiations gained impetus after Beria's arrest.
7. Ignatiev finally agreed to give Malenkov his whole-hearted support against the Molotov group, and in restoring Party discipline in the Red Army. In return Malenkov and Khrushchev were forced to agree to pursue a more dynamic Communist policy in world affairs, as soon as the situation in the Kremlin cleared. The reconciliation with the Zhdanovites has greatly strengthened Malenkov's position in the Kremlin, but it has made it more difficult for him to appease the radical elements in the Central Committee.
8. Ignatiev now aspires to be Minister of Internal Affairs and head of the MVD. The Zhdanovites who follow him are convinced that time is being wasted in delaying Communist revolutionary action abroad. They believe that no real negotiations should be undertaken with the West and are in favor of intensifying the class struggle in the Western orbit and of a general increase of Communist pressure. Ignatiev's new promotion brings this group into a more influential position.

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